

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of making a helmet comprising the steps of cutting a plurality of substantially rectangular blanks from a sheet of fabric, making curved cuts in each blank to form a crown portion and lobe portions therefrom, arranging a stack of said sheets into a helmet preform ~~such that~~ by pushing the stack of blanks into a substantially hemispherical cavity so as to cause the lobe portions of ~~any~~ each blank to partially overlap adjacent lobe portions of the same blank, and molding the helmet from the preform.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet of fabric has previously been impregnated with resin.

Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein the resin is phenolic resin.

Claims 4-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (original): A helmet formed from a stack of fibrous blanks impregnated with resin, each blank comprising a trimmed rectangle and each blank having four curved cuts extending inwardly, one from each side of the rectangle.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the rectangular blanks are substantially square.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of making cuts comprises forming only one cut extending inwardly from each side of each blank, thus forming only four lobe portions from the blank.

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the rectangular blanks are substantially square.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of making cuts comprises forming only one cut extending inwardly from each side of each blank, thus forming only four lobe portions from the blank.

Claim 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the cuts start at a position on each side of the blank which divides the side into two fractions of between 0.3/0.7 and 0.45/0.55.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method according to claim 24, wherein each cut then follows an arc of a circle towards the other side of the blank to which the cut is already closest.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method according to claim 25, wherein the cuts do not extend further than any perpendicular bisector of any side of the blank.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, wherein each cut terminates at the first perpendicular bisector reached.

Claim 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the centers of the blanks in the stack are aligned and there is an angular offset between adjacent blanks.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the blanks are of more than one size.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the blanks have a thickness between 0.3 and 1 mm.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the molding step involves the application of heat as well as pressure.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the molded helmet is trimmed in order to form a helmet with a rim that lies substantially in one plane.